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Sex is ex- for Prince of Porn Harry Reems

'Deep Throat' star cleaning up his act

By DAVE CHENOWETH
of The Gazette

With a smile that is both wistful and mocking, he likens himself to Richard Chamberlain — who turned his back on *Dr. Kildare* and a guaranteed fortune to prove he could make it as a real actor.

Mind you, for Harry Reems, the problem of typecasting has been a little more severe. When you're North America's best-known male porno star, "legitimate producers don't exactly flock to your door."

Now, thanks to Dal Productions — the Canadian film company which produced the summer success, *Meatballs* — the 32-year-old American is being given a chance to edge into the mainstream of movie acting.

He is to be one of the stars in *The Squad*, described by director Claude Fournier as a ribald farce about the crime-busting head of a vice squad in a gleefully immoral metropolis, which has begun filming in Montreal. The cast also includes Quebec star Daniel Pilon and former Montrealer Fiona Reid (best known for TV's *King of Kensington* series).

As a man once convicted of conspiring to violate U.S. obscenity laws — the case was thrown out of court on appeal, because the law was passed a year after Reems made the notorious film *Deep Throat* — Reems takes an almost boyish pleasure in his role as Mr. Clean, the uptight moralist who heads the vice squad.

"It's fun for me, playing one of these prize bigots, these tyrannical, vindictive people. But what I'm going to try to get across is that these people are really scared — scared of themselves, of their feelings and emotions. And, hopefully, I can do it and also make people laugh, make them realize they have nothing to be afraid of."

Confident charm

Reems says he lives this credo — there's nothing to afraid of — to the hilt. And at a media gathering at the Ritz, he stands out as the most relaxed person present, smiling, cracking jokes, displaying a sense of humor and a confident charm that accentuates his half-rugged, half-gentle good looks.

It's no surprise that Reems is a relaxed man; what could faze someone who has made hundreds of films — from stag-party quickies to box-office bonanzas like *Deep Throat* and *The Devil and Miss Jones* — where he does things on camera that many people still find inhibiting in total darkness?

Reems makes no apologies for his porno career — and says it's helped him both as an actor and a person. "When an actor has gone so far as to expose himself physically in front of a camera, all your vulnerabilities become exposed.

"It's a wonderful exercise for an actor, you're forced to explore all your dimensions, to confront yourself at levels most people won't explore."

And, he adds in a climactic burst of laughter, working in sex films is also "a fabulous concentration exercise."

Reems quickly turns serious again, making the point that he was a genuine-to-goodness actor before he started making sex films.

In the late '60s, Reems had done well in Off-Broadway — including appearances at the prestigious Cafe LaMamma — and had joined the National Shakespeare Company, only to find "it's hard to exist on $75 and change — before taxes. So I got involved in what were then stag films."

It was with court acceptance of *I Am Curious, Yellow*, which opened the door to big budget U.S. sex films, that Reems found himself an overnight sensation. In 1972, he appeared in *Deep Throat* for only $250, but the film went on to earn $25 million — and Reems found himself able to command thousands of dollars for appearances in later big-budget sex epics.

But in 1974, the prince of porn was nearly dethroned — he was arrested by the FBI in New York, shipped off to Memphis, Tenn., where he was indicted by a local prosecutor for "a national conspiracy to transport interstate an obscene motion picture."

He was convicted and sentenced to five years' jail and fined $10,000.

Although the Justice Department overturned the decision and ordered a new trial — which was never held — the trial created massive changes for Reems.

He found himself in demand on the lecture circuit, discussing pornography laws and the American legal system, then shifted his base of operations to Europe, beyond the reach of further indictments, where he also shifted his career to making more conventional films.

'I'm a curiosity'

There's no denying that Reems enjoys his celebrity status.

"Let's be honest. I'm a curiosity, more so than an established artist. I've portrayed myself as I am, and people are shocked an astounded when they meet me to discover I'm not a sex fiend, a deviate, but a person with fair intelligence, who's fairly presentable."

Gazette, Len Sidaway

Harry Reems: Problem of typecasting

YOU BE THE CRITIC

The column where readers have their say

Mr. Schnurmacher serves good gossip

I have only good words for Mr. Thomas Schnurmacher and I'm going to let you know why. If I'm not objective enough, blame it on the fact that he has the power to make me smile.

Some people see him as someone on an ego trip while I think he expresses himself and his ideas in a unique way.

Not only is he a good critic, but he also makes accurate observations. Do you remember him trying to destroy or condemn anybody? He's certainly a classy and subtle critic.

He can serve us sophisticated gossip. It's interesting to read gossip when spiced with humor. What a refined recipe!

Mr. Schnurmacher is a modern gentleman. He seems (every time I read his column) to be objective about women, which is rare. I don't see any irrelevant, negative opinion or prejudice toward women in his writings. Of course, there could be an abyss between what he mentioned and what he thinks. But . . .

I'd be more than pleased to accompany this gentleman to one of his many occupations.

Alexandre Mainganto
Montreal

Why the Maggie plug?

Why the big play for Margaret Trudeau in Thomas Schnurmacher's column of July 13? Margaret Trudeau has made a public spectacle of herself since she left our dear ex-Prime Minister and if she chooses to flaunt herself on TV, among other things, then people like Mike Douglas have every right to quiz her on her private life. Grow up, Mr. Schnurmacher, there are more important things to worry about than Margaret Trudeau.

J. Asquith
Montreal.

Ramones concert review confusing and ridiculous

Never have I read an article as confusing, misleading, and totally ridiculous as Juan Rodoriguez' review of the Ramones show at Le Pretzel Enchaine (The Ramones' rock music of numbed minds and bodies, July 16).

Mr. Rodriguez recognizes that the Ramones possess "primal energy." He then explains that the reason they have this "primal" spirit is because they have a recording contract. I fail to see the connection.

He accuses them of not progressing, unlike other great artists such as Chuck Berry. In fact, the Ramones have progressed steadily from their raw (and excellent) debut album through to their part in the recently released *Rock 'n' Roll High School* soundtrack. If their growth thus far has escaped Mr. Rodriguez, I suggest he wait for their next LP, produced by the renowned Phil Spector.

Incidentally, how much has Chuck Berry progressed in the past 20 years?

It is never explained where the assumption that the Ramones' music is that of numbed minds and bodies. Mr. Rodriguez is more likely to find numbed minds and bodies at the next Supertramp concert.

May I be the first to say that Juan Rodriguez is too old to rock 'n' roll?

Lawrence Joseph
Montreal

Does not deserve flak

Juan Rodriguez' review on the Ramones concert draws my priase. It's about time that somebody stood up and denounced the type of commercialized punk/disco that proliferates from such groups. In my opinion, Mr. Rodriguez is a very highly qualified critic who does not deserve the flak he has been taking from other readers.

Gary Miller
Ste-Foy, Quebec

Please note that letters may be condensed at the editor's discretion. Send them to: *You Be The Critic, Entertainments Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal H3C 3R7.*

WHAT'S ON WEEKEND

CLUBS

Friar's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Short Notice. **Sun.:** Pastiche. 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. 849-9086.

The Maples, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight through Sun.:** Rough Draft. 694-2479.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Consilium. 931-2575.

Rainbow Bar & Grill, 1430 Stanley St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Silk 'n' Steel. 849-3262.

Stitches, 1470 Crescent St. **Sun.** Stand-up comedy featuring Howard Busgang and others. Admission $3. For auditions phone 842-3713.

Yakkity-Yak, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** The Backbeats. Fri. and Sat. $2.50. 866-6492.

Lancer Pub, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Carl Peterson, Andy Vine and Duke Walker; 9 p.m. Free admission. 866-6492.

F.M. Club, 1236 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Jasmine. Admission: Fri. and Sat. $2. 866-6492.

Hotel Nelson, 425 Place Jacques-Cartier, in Old Montreal. **Tonight through Sun.:** Orphee. 861-5731.

Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Diane Gentes and The Original Drugstore Cowboys. Doors open at 8 p.m. 392-4947.

Rising Sun, 286 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight through Sun.:** Chicago Machine Inn Blues Band. 861-0657.

The Hunter's Horn, 1214 Peel St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Clahanes. **Sun.:** Upstairs in The Parlour, Peter Suttie. 861-8022.

L'Air du Temps, 191 St. Paul St. in Old Montreal. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Nesyre Abbdal. **Sun.:** Roger Wall. Admission: $2. 842-2003.

St. James Pub, 1197 University St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Rick Tennant. 861-8022.

Cock 'n Bull Pub, 1944 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Bowser and Blue. **Sun.:** Al Peter's Dixieland Band. 933-4556.

THEATRE

Phoenix Theatre, 1858 de Maisonneuve W. presents *Bullshot Crummond*, tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Sun., (last show), 8:30 p.m. Tickets 5$, students and senior citizens, $3.50. 931-0787.

Theatre d'ete le St. Laurent, 2405 Ile Charron, Longueuil, presents *Double Jeu*, comedy-suspense written by Robert Thomas and adapted for stage by Jean Dumas. Cast includes Rejean Lefrancois, Janine Mignolet, Yvan Ducharme, Gabrielle Mathieu and Bertrand Gagnon. Tonight, 7:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Continuing until Sept. 1. Reservations: 651-5250.

Actor's Studio, 7050 Victoria, Rm. 210, presents Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, tonight, 8:30 p.m. finishing tomorrow at 8:30. Tickets, $4.50; students, $3.50. 342-4591.

Le Poudriere, Ile Ste-Helene, presents *In One Bed and . . . Out the Other*, until Aug. 4. Cast includes Joyce Campion, Graham Batchelor, Wendy Dawson, Dustin Wain, Ann Marie MacDonald and Mitch Martin; John Peters directs. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 526-0821.

OUT OF TOWN

Festival Lennoxville, Bishop's University, Lennoxville. **Today:** *Clouds of Glory*, 8:30 p.m. **Tomorrow:** *Eight to the Bar*, 2 p.m. and **Westmount**, 8:30 p.m.; **Sun.:** *The Murder of Auguste Dupin*, 2 p.m., and *Clouds of Glory*, 8:30 p.m.

Prince of Wales Theatre, near Morrisburg, Ont., presents the musical drama *A Day to Remember*, tonight, 8 p.m.; tomorrow 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun., 8 p.m., until Sept. 2. Tickets, $6; children, $3, on sale at the all TRS outlets or the Theatre's box office. 788-3651.

Piggery Theatre, North Hatley, presents the suspense drama *Wait Until Dark*, by Frederick Knott, tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (819) 842-2191.

Theatre du Manoir des Pins, Ste. Lucie de Doncaster, presents *Est partie comme un p'tit poulet*, tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m., until Sept. 2. Cast includes Chantal Beaupre, Jean-Raymond Chales and Francois Trottier; music by Luc Lafrance, adapted by Yves Bastien. Produced by Corridor. Tickets, $6; senior citizens, $4.25. (819) 326-0003.

Theatre de la Feniere, 1500 La Feniere, Ancienne-Lorette (10 kilometres west of Quebec City) presents *Une nuit chez vous . . . Madame*, tonight through Sun., 9 p.m., until Aug. 9. 872-1424.

L'Escale, St. Marc-sur-Richelieu, presents Elizabeth Bourget's *Le bonheur d'Henri*, until Sept. 1. Directed by Gilbert Lepage. Tonight, 9 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. 584-2226.

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Jazz Festival, at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, presents B. B. King and The Dutch Mason Blues Band at 8 p.m. Tickets $6.50 to $12.50. 842-2112.

OUT OF TOWN

National Arts Centre in Ottawa — 8:30 p.m. The Orford Quartet perform Debussy's *Quartet in G Minor, Op. 11.*; Faure's *Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor.*; and Chausson's *Concerto Op. 21.*

Bromont Festival at 8:30 p.m. features the Preservation Hall Jazz Band of New Orleans. Tickets $7.50. Cultural Sport Centre in Bromont. (Exit 78 off the Eastern Townships Autoroute). 534-2774.

Orford Festival J.M.C. Orford Art Centre. (Exit 118 off the Eastern Townships Autoroute) presents Toyko Youth Orchestra, 8:30 p.m. in Montreal, phone 271-2566.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Harold and Maude, 7; Hardcore, 7:15; Heaven Can Wait, 9:15; The Warriors, 9:45; Hendrix in Berkley, midnight.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Odd Man Out, 7; The Life of Oharu, 9.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Le Recidiviste, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45; Suspiria, 7, 9, 11.

Outremont (277-4145) Girl Friends, and Arena, 8; Au-Dela du bien et du mal, 10.

Seville (932-1139) Fastbreak, 7:15; Halloween, 9:30; Flesh Gordon, midnight.

Labelle/Latraverse appear tonight and Sun., 7 p.m.; tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., until Aug. 12 at the Cultural Centre, Lake Masson, 414 Baron Empain, Ste. Marguerite (Exit 69 off Laurentian Autoroute). 861-3988 or 228-2513.

Theatre d'Ete La Dauphin, 600 St. Joseph Blvd. in Drummondville, presents *L'amour vous connaissez*, a comedy by Bill Manhoff with Claudine Chantel and Guy Godin. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., until Sept. 1. Reservations 478-4145.

Theatre St. Sauveur presents *J'me sens drole*, a musical comedy by Gilles Richer with Michel Forget, France Costel, Hans Masson and Marc Legault. Tonight, 8:30 p.m., tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. and Sun. 7:30 p.m., until Sept. 3. 22 Claude St. in St. Sauveur. (Exit 60 off the Laurentian Autoroute). 227-3747.

SATURDAY

MUSIC

Jazz Festival, at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, 8 p.m. John Lee Hooker, Lightnin' Hopkins, Clifton Chenier, Big Mamma Thornton and Eddie Cleanhead Vinson. Tickets $8.50 to $15. 842-2112.

OUT OF TOWN

Orford Festival J. M. C. Orford Art Centre (Exit 118 off the Eastern Townships Autoroute). A festival of Baroque music, featuring Emma Kirkby, soprano; Lucy van Deel, baroque violin; Sarah Cunningham, viola da gamba; Ricardo Kanji, baroque flute; Christopher Jackson, organ, and harpsichordist Rejean Poirier at 8:30 p.m.

DANCE

Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal performs at the Cultural Sport Centre in Bromont at 8:30 p.m. Tickets $6. (Exit 78 off the Eastern Townships Autoroute). 534-2774.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Harold and Maude, 7; The Silent Partner, 7:15; Heaven Can Wait, 9:15; The Warriors, 9:45; Rabid, midnight.

Conservatoire de cinematographique (879-4349) Street of Shame, 7; Woman of the Dunes, 9.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) L'Arbre aux Sabots, 1, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45; Le Prive de ces dames, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

Outremont (227-4145) Girl Friends, and Arena, 8; Au-Dela du bien et du mal, 10.

Seville (932-1139) The Rocky Horror Picture Show, 7; Swept Away, 9:30; Halloween, midnight.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Jazz Festival, at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m.: Oscar Peterson, tickets $6.50 to $12.50. 842-2112.

The Little Singers of Mount Royal, under the direction of Gilbert Patenaude, performs *Missa Octavi Toni* by Rolland de Lassus and *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Durufle at 11 a.m. St. Joseph's Oratory, 3800 Queen Mary Rd. 733-8211.

The Regimental Pipes & Drums group of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada joins the Black Watch Association Concert Band for and evening of Scottish music, 8:15 p.m., on the Dominion Square Bandstand (by the Cenotaph). The bands will start separatley and then combine to perform *Scotch on the Rocks, The Lord of the Dance*; and *Amazing Grace* as well as traditional tunes. Free.

OUT OF TOWN

National Arts Centre in Ottawa presents Massenet's operatta, *Cendrillon*, (in French) at 8 p.m. Conducteu by Mario Bernardi, directed and choregraphed by Brian MacDonald. Tickets $6.50 to $17.50.

Vermont Recital Associates — Cellist Elsa Hilger and pianist Catherine Baird perform works by Haydn, Bach and Brahm, 3 p.m., at the Four Winds Gallery in Ferrisburg, Vermont, 15 miles south of Burlington and one mile east of Route 7. Admission, $3.50, students and senior citizens, $2.50. (802) 862-6344.

ETCETERA

Afro-Festival — "Pot pourri" and track and field, 4 p.m., at the N D G Black Cultural Centre, 5733 Sherbrooke St. W. Admission, $3, 12-years and under $1.50. 932-1107/08.

Sunday in the Park — Music, theatre, dancing, children's world and cultural displays at N D G Park, corner of Sherbrooke and Girouard, from 10 a.m. to midnight. 487-3540.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Watership Down, 7; Heaven Can Wait, 7:15; The Silent Partner, 9:15; The Warriors, 9:45.

Conservatoire d'Art Cinematographique (879-4349) The Third Man, 7; Derzu Uzala, 9.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) L'Arbre au sabots, 3, 6:15, 9:30; Vas-Y Maman, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

Outremont (277-4145) La Malediction de la Panthere Rose, 7:30; Portier de Nuit, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) California Suite, 5; Halloween, 7; Murder by Decree, 9:15.

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